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Dear Members of the Lumpkin Board of Commissioners,

This year, I am again asking the Board to approve continuing to allow Lumpkin County to be the conduit governing body for the pass through of Federal funds to the District Attorney's office under the "Victims of Crime Act Victim's Assistance Grant Program" known as VOCA. This program provides our funding for victim services by providing the salaries for our Victim Advocates, which includes one full-time job and one part-time job based in Dahlonega as well as our advocates in the White and Union/Towns offices.

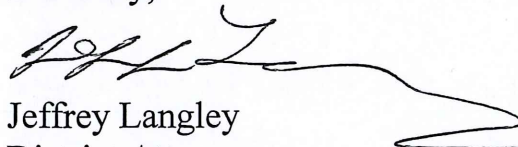
Our Constitutionally guaranteed rights to the defendant in each criminal case, necessarily focuses much of our court system on the rights of the accused. In the past, the rights and well-being of the victims of crime often seemed lost in the process.

This program and the staff it provides help prevent that from happening. Last year our victim advocates, from January 1 to December 31, provided 7846 services to 1076 victims in our four county circuit. This ranges from transportation for a victim's family to court for a child molestation trial to helping an elderly burglary victim complete a form to receive restitution and providing referrals for counseling and other services. We strive to keep every victim notified as to the progress in their cases and to abide by the victim's bill of rights under Georgia law. This year we set a new goal of making contact with every victim within 72 hours of the crime.

While this program greatly benefits the people of our counties, it cost virtually no local tax dollars. This grant requires no local matching tax dollars. Instead we provide a local match through volunteer and intern hours rather than cash.

Your assistance is provided by Mark French's work in managing the grant funds through Lumpkin County and he does a great job working with us. I ask that you continue this grant program for another year.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Langley  
District Attorney